

UC Pest Management Guidelines

AVOCADO

JUNE BEETLES (Scarabs)

Scientific Names: *Coenonycha testacea*, *Serica fimbriata*, and *Serica alternata*

(Reviewed: 7/01, updated: 7/01)

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PESTS

Of the June beetles attacking avocados, the species *Serica fimbriata* and *S. alternata* are the most common and widely distributed. They attack many trees and crops other than avocado. Adults of both *Serica* species are large and robust. *Serica fimbriata* is 0.6 inch (1.5 cm) and *S. alternata* 0.36 inch (9 mm) long. The former is a velvety brown with faintly striated wing covers, while the latter is a uniform shiny brown color. *Coenonycha testacea* is smaller and distinctly more narrow (almost rectangular) than the other two. It is about 0.36 inch (9 mm) long and shiny brown. The grubs of all three species are C-shaped, cream colored, about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long, and live in the soil where they feed on roots. June beetles have one generation per year.

DAMAGE

June beetles are most injurious in young orchards planted near uncultivated land. They fly in from untilled fields and brushland and eat the foliage on the trees at night. June beetles can completely defoliate hundreds of trees in a single orchard. During the day, they burrow into the soil to a depth of up to 2 inches (5 cm), reappearing the following night to resume feeding.

MONITORING and MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

The threat from these beetles is primarily to young, newly

planted trees in spring. In small plantings beetles could be trapped by blacklights at night. There is a risk of attracting adult beetles from outside the orchard, however.

TREATMENT

Pesticide (commercial name)	Amount/Acre	P.H.I.+ (days)
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A.MALATHION 8	4-9 pt	7
COMMENTS: Restricted entry interval: 12 hours. Apply as a foliar spray at night when beetles are feeding in trees. Use of this material will disrupt biological control of other pests such as scales, thrips, mites, and whiteflies.		

+ Preharvest interval. Do not apply within this many days of harvest.

PRECAUTIONS

PUBLICATION



UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Avocado
UC ANR Publication 3436
Insects and Mites
B. A. Faber, UC Cooperative Extension, Santa
Barbara/Ventura counties
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Extension, Ventura Co.